

CHAPTER 80.

[Published April 3, 1872.]

AN ACT authorizing cities and villages to establish free public libraries and reading rooms.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The city council of each incorporated city, not exceeding in population fifty thousand inhabitants, and the board of trustees of each incorporated village in this state, shall have power to establish and maintain a public library and reading room for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of such city or incorporated village, and may levy a tax not exceeding one mill on the dollar, on all taxable property of the city or village, for such purpose, to be known as the "library fund."

May establish public libraries.

SECTION 2. When any common council or board of trustees shall have decided to establish and maintain a public library and reading room under this act, the mayor of such city, or the president of such village shall, with the approval of the common council or board of trustees, proceed to appoint a board of nine directors for the same, chosen from the citizens at large, with reference to their fitness for such office, and not more than one member of the city council or board of trustees shall be at any one time, a member of said board of directors.

Shall appoint board of directors.

SECTION 3. Said directors shall hold office from their appointment, and one-third for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years, from the first of July of each year following their appointment, and at their first regular meeting shall cast lots for the respective terms, and annually thereafter the mayor of such city or the president of such village shall, before the first of July of each year, appoint, as before, three directors to take the place of the retiring directors, who shall hold their office for three years, and until their successors are appointed.

Their term of office

SECTION 4. Vacancies in the board of directors, occasioned by removal, resignation or otherwise, shall be

How vacancies filled.

reported by the board to the city council or board of trustees, and be filled in like manner as original appointments, and no director shall receive any compensation as such.

Organization of directors—their power and duties.

SECTION 5. Said directors shall, immediately after their appointment, meet and organize by the election of one of their number president, and by the election of such other officers as they may deem necessary. They shall make and adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations for their own guidance and for the government of the library and reading room as may be expedient, not inconsistent with this act. They shall have the exclusive control of the expenditures of all moneys collected to the library fund, and of the supervision, care and custody of the rooms or buildings constructed, leased or set apart for that purpose: *provided*, that all moneys received for such library shall be deposited in the treasury of said city or village, to the credit of the library fund, and shall be kept separate and apart from other moneys of such city or village, and drawn upon by the proper officers of said city or village upon the properly authenticated vouchers of the library board. Said board shall have the power to occupy, lease or erect an appropriate building for the use of said library, not exceeding from the library fund in any one year in building, more than half the income of such year, and shall have power to appoint a suitable librarian and necessary assistants, and shall in general carry out the spirit and intent of this act in establishing and maintaining the best library and reading room with the means at their disposal: *provided, however*, that no purchase or lease of land or buildings, and no order or contract for the erection or construction of buildings shall take effect without the previous approval of the mayor and common council of the city, or board of trustees of the village.

Library to be free.

SECTION 6. Every library and reading-room established under this act, shall be forever free for the use of the inhabitants of the city or village where located, always subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the library board may find necessary to adopt and publish, in order to render the use of said library and reading-room of the greatest benefit to the greatest number, and may exclude and cut off from the use of

said library and reading-room any and all persons who shall willfully violate such rules.

SECTION 7. The said board of directors shall make an annual report to the city council or board of trustees, stating the condition of their trust, the various sums of money received from the library fund and from all other sources, and how such moneys have been expended; the number of books and periodicals on hand; the number added by purchase, gift or otherwise during the year; the number lost or missing; the number of books loaned out, and the general character and kind of such books, with such other statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest.

Directors to make annual report.

SECTION 8. All taxes levied under this act shall be levied and collected in like manner with other general taxes in said city or village.

How taxes levied.

SECTION 9. Any person desirous of making donations of money or real estate for the benefit of such library shall have the right to vest the title to the money or real estate so donated, in the board of directors created under this act, to be held and controlled by such board, when accepted according to the terms of the deed of gift, devise or bequest of such property; and as to such property, the said board shall be held and considered to be special trustees.

Title of donations to be vested in directors.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect from and after its passage and publication.

Approved March 21, 1872.

CHAPTER 81.

[Published April 3, 1872.]

AN ACT in relation to trustees in certain cases.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. That whenever it is required by law, or by the terms and provisions of any mortgage or deed of trust made and executed, or hereafter to be made and executed by or on behalf of any corporation created

Majority of trustees may execute bonds.